

and many others I would hope will join us in ensuring that we move forward on behalf of our children.

I close by simply saying that we will soon engage this Congress in a very important debate on how we proceed, whether in war or conflict. We must do it in a rational and a firm way with the facts. We must lead this country in a way that exhibits our valor and our courage so that we adhere to better angels and higher angels, and that in fact, that we believe in our freedom in a way that encourages peace and deliberation.

Yes, we will give retribution, but we will be firm and factual and studied. We will do it together, the President in consultation with Congress.

TERRORIST BOMBING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, many of us have been quiet about what has happened this week, but many of us also feel the need to speak. What I say is not in the mold of reviewing it or condemning anything that has happened, but I just want to express some personal feelings about it and also a few opinions.

I will not revel in self-misery, although it is tempting to do so, but at least I want to share my experience with my colleagues and the American people.

Tuesday morning, as I was listening to the morning news, I heard about the airplane hitting the first tower. It was described as a two-engine plane, and since I am a former pilot, I assumed it was some amateur who had gotten off course, or some kook who was trying to do some damage with a small twin-engine plane.

I immediately turned on the television just in time to see the second plane approach, and immediately I knew it was terrorism, because it was obviously a large commercial airliner, and no large commercial airliner would be off course or score a direct hit in clear weather such as that.

I immediately headed for the Capitol. In doing so, I drove past the Pentagon. They had just been hit. That confirmed that indeed it was a very serious case of terrorism. The smoke was beginning to billow out. I drove to the Capitol; and at that time, a decision was made to evacuate it. I turned and headed back.

It was as I was driving back across the Potomac River and I crested the hill on the bridge, I saw the Pentagon with smoke billowing out of it that it hit me with full force. My immediate response was, what are they doing to my country? What are they doing to our country? It was with horror, disbelief, and shock.

It took more than a day for that to turn to anger, although anger was present at the beginning. But this has happened to all the Members of Congress, it is not just me. I hope the American people realize how deeply we feel their anguish, how deeply we feel their pain, and how much some of us have cried; how we hug each other out of a sense of this disaster. It has really hit us hard.

Why did this happen? Everyone is asking that. Why? It is very hard to believe, because Americans are good people. They try to do good things in the world. People hate us. Why do they hate us? We cannot comprehend that, but they do hate us. That is why they do these terrible things to us.

How can this be? Why do they hate us? Partly because they are enemies of freedom. They cannot stand the fact that we are a free country, and there are dictators in this world and many terrorists who want to rule in an absolute way. They cannot stand to see the success that we enjoy.

There are other reasons, of course, other types of enmities that peoples of other nations may have to us, but it does not match the hate and anger that these terrorists have.

On the positive side, let me note how much I and all the Members of Congress have been heartened by the reaction of the American people, the greatest outpouring of loyalty and patriotism that I have seen since World War II. There have been people in the streets wanting to do something good, and contributions are pouring in to those who have suffered. There is generosity. People are saying, as the President said this morning during the service of prayer and remembrance, there are people driving from Dallas with skin grafts to help the wounded here, and similarly, from my State of Michigan, and I believe from my hometown of Grand Rapids, driving in because they cannot fly in, driving in with skin grafts so people can be treated and heal.

What comes next? We must have retribution. Just in the name of justice, we must have retribution. But let me caution the American people, this takes time. We have a faceless, nameless enemy. The first task is to identify who did this.

This has been compared in many ways to Pearl Harbor, but it is very different in one sense. The enemy was clearly identified, and we proceeded for several years to arm to resolve that dispute.

This will take an equal amount of time, I am convinced, because it is not just one person. It is not just one terrorist camp, it is a network, I am convinced, that is lodged in a number of nations. We cannot simply knock out one and think we have solved the problem. We are going to have to deal with the entire problem.

I hope and pray that God will be with us. I hope and pray that our allies will continue to help us, and that, indeed, we will be able to have justice, we will have retribution and the world will once again enjoy peace.

WHAT WE CAN DO AS AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, every time that I have the privilege of addressing this House, I am reminded of indeed what a privilege it is to represent constituents from my own State of Ohio and to vote on laws affecting our Nation and the world.

This week in particular the magnitude of this privilege has come home to me again. I rise as a free citizen in the freest Nation on Earth, given the opportunity under our freedom of speech to speak my peace, but in a representative government.

As I think about what happened to America this week, I think about the forces of the world that are outside of governments and have no representative decision-making in the way that the civilized world understands. I am reminded of what happens to the world when that kind of force is allowed to work its evil in our country and other places.

As Members of Congress, we are given the privilege of traveling to many places. A few years ago, I remember going to one of the newly emerging nations of the world. During a session with the citizenry, I was asked, "Congresswoman KAPTUR, what makes you feel like a nation?" And I remember stepping back from the microphone for a moment and pondering that, and trying to answer the question that I was asked, why do your people feel like a nation?

This week, we have had many indicators of how deep our nationhood runs: the enormity of the valor that we have seen coast-to-coast, the thousands of acts of kindness and of decency that have accompanied this great tragedy that our entire Nation has suffered, and so many families have suffered so personally.

This morning as we sat at the prayer service and then stood for the posting of our colors, and I looked at all the battle-flag ribbons that walked into the church, and I thought about all the blood that had been shed, all the families, including ours, that had been affected by prior wars and prior engagements, I thought about the red in our flag, and I thought about the enormity of sacrifice that has maintained this Republic over our existence.

So many Americans have been writing me, my own constituents and others. We have been receiving letters from all over the world yesterday. I

wish to enter into the record a letter of condolence and support from the Nation of Ukraine through the Ambassador from Ukraine.

I hope the American people, through us, can understand the weight of public opinion and the weight of support that is on the side of justice as we move forward and try to eliminate and bring to justice those who would have caused such horror on our shores.

I had one senior citizen who wrote me: "Congresswoman KAPTUR, I am elderly, I am disabled. I am too weak, I cannot give blood. What can I do?" I wrote her back, "You certainly can put a little flag in your front window." I am sure she does not have much money, but I suggested she might make a small donation to the scholarship fund that the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) have put in the form of a bill for all the families in New York and Pennsylvania, other places in our country, and Virginia, that have been affected, for their children.

I was thinking, during World War II, we had a massive savings bond campaign. I think every American can buy a savings bond. Every American can strengthen our country even more in meeting what lies ahead. So I would urge the President, in the additional funds the Congress has appropriated, to consider expanding some of the savings bond operations across this country; to work with our banks, our private institutions, the Internet, and allow the American people, at whatever level of support they might be able to give, to strengthen our Nation as we seek to meet the enemy.

Let me also say that I would encourage many of our young people as they are considering their futures to think about enlistment in our Armed Forces, in our Reserves, in our guard forces across this country. Each of us in our own hearts, I know the Members of Congress, we know we are soldiers of freedom, too. We ask the American people to lend the kind of support that we will need to carry out the activities of a free people under a representative government.

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I ask people to consider joining our intelligence services.

And, finally, let me say to the American people and to our youth in particular, study in your classes the roots of rage and the roots of those who would seek to harm the harbingers of freedom not just here at home but abroad. Take the time to learn America, indeed, will surmount this latest crisis.

AMERICA'S RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the events of this past week clearly have brought this Nation together. And listening to my colleagues step forward and address the body today, I cannot help but reflect on the events of this past week, in so many ways surreal in terms of the stunning manner and catastrophic fashion in which they unfolded before us: the absolute horror, the unbelievable human sacrifice, the unbelievable human effort and heroism that took place. Even the elements themselves, happening during otherwise sunny and beautiful days, and then just proceeding to our Cathedral in a mist of rain to mourn and pray only entering out to the sunshine.

As a Nation, we mourn our innocent victims, our valiant heroes, our men and women who wear the uniform who have perished. It is a time of shared pain and prayer and a reaching out with acts of kindness that comfort and console. It is a time that the Nation, as we have seen all across this great country of ours, rolls up its sleeves and comes together. It volunteers. It gives blood. It provides its brawn to continue the efforts to dig out, to recover, to rebuild, and take heart in what binds us all in this country: our love of freedom, our love of this Nation, our deep and abiding love of one another.

This is also a time of grim resolve. Shortly, we will be voting on granting war powers and stand united behind President Bush and sound forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat. There can be no quarter given to the cowards who perpetrate acts of evil against innocent people. For these cowards, the wrath of a just and free people will be severe. Our resolve is to ferret out the perpetrators, wherever they may be, and provide them no place to hide; with the further resolve that any Nation that seeks to harbor them, as the President has indicated earlier this week, we will make no distinction.

And while there must be no mistake about our resolve, let there also be no mistake about the manner in which we measure the actions we will take and direct our efforts at terrorists and not at the innocent.

God bless America.

IN FULL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT BUSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have, as a Member of this body, not been one who frequently seeks the microphone or comes to this well of the House on any and all topics. Instead, I have attempted many times to offer measured comments here based upon what I feel strongly about.

Last Wednesday evening, at about 11:10 p.m., I came to the well of this House, like so many Members of this institution, to state my outrage over what had happened on Tuesday morning beginning at about 8:45. I pledged on that occasion my support for President Bush during this national crisis; and at this grave moment in our history, I think I at that time spoke for all Americans when I said we stood together in support of our commander in chief just as we did on behalf of those brave firemen, policemen and policewomen, and the citizenry of New York and Washington, DC, and our military forces as well.

I call attention to that simply to point out that in the strongest possible terms I condemned the unimaginable and unprecedented terrorist attacks that had taken place in New York City and Washington, DC on that morning. In the wonderful epic that de Tocqueville wrote, simply entitled "America," he asked what it was that had set the American people apart from the rest of the world. And he suggested, after having difficulty coming up with a term, it was simply a habit of the heart.

In what has represented the most serious act of aggression on American soil, a nameless and faceless enemy launched an assault on the very foundation of our society and, indeed, upon the manner in which we live. There is no body in America that is more representative than this institution of its people. It was my belief then and my belief now, as I had rallied to President Bush, Sr.'s support, President Clinton's support in perilous moments, now the consistent thing to do would be to support President Bush, the Republican and Democratic leadership in this institution, as we sought and continue to seek to reassure the American people about events of the last few days and, indeed, just as importantly, over events of the next few weeks, months, and, I frankly believe, years.

These are moments when we come to the conclusion that old quotation that America offers unity without uniformity; free to be of different backgrounds and religions and persuasions and hold strong and differing political views. But on occasions like this we stand firm in our resolve to support our President and the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces as they prepare, with our support, a clear and decisive response against those who perpetrated these unspeakable acts.

Those are the comments that I offered on Wednesday night, and there is nothing that has happened during these 48 hours that would have caused me to change my mind. Indeed, my resolve, like the resolve of the American people, as we have witnessed this horror, has only been stiffened. And I